THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No. However, India and the United States have institutionalised a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism that provides a forum for an ongoing bilateral dialogue on cooperation in the area of counter-terrorism. As part of this dialogue, the two countries are engaged in capacity building in preventive and protective consequence management aspects of counter-terrorism, as also in intelligence sharing, law-enforcement cooperation and strengthening of international efforts in combating terrorism. The United States has also condemned, on a number of occasions, incidents of terrorism in different parts of the country.

Wheat import from India

1789. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Iraq has resumed import of wheat from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof with contracts entered into for the next three years;

(c) whether Government have explored the possibility of bartering export of wheat with import of crude oil from Iraq; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) No, Sir. So far, Government of India has received no specific request for supply of wheat from India. However, earlier contracts of supply of wheat from India under Oil for Food Programme are being renegotiated.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir, The political situation in Iraq is still evolving and formation of an internationally recognized government by Iraqi people is awaited.